

Yellow Advertiser Southend

Week ending Friday May 24, 2019

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Local News

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Your YA scoops two national awards

A **YELLOW ADVERTISER** investigation has been declared the public's favourite newspaper campaign of 2018.

YA chief reporter Charles Thomson was also named by the Society of Editors as the best weekly newspaper reporter in Britain.

The prizes were dished out at the conclusion of Local Newspaper Week last Friday, May 17, at the annual Regional Press Awards.

The YA's campaigning investigation into the alleged cover-up of a 1980s paedophile ring in Southend won the Making a Difference People's Choice Award.

To date, it has forced police to review a 30-year-old investigation, sparked two fresh police investigations, led to the arrest of a notorious paedophile and revealed that the paedophile ring was run by an Essex Police informant.

The Making a Difference Award was the only prize at the ceremony to be awarded by

● Turn to page 16



PRIZE: Henry Faure Walker, vice-chairman of the News Media Association, Charles Thomson, YA editor Mick Ferris and Nick Ferrari

DON'T BATHE AT THE BEACH

Water quality rated 'poor' after raised levels of faecal bacteria in samples

by Michael Cox

southend@yellowad.co.uk

PEOPLE are being told not to bathe at a Leigh beach after the water quality was rated as "poor".

Leigh Bell Wharf has been reclassified to "poor" for the quality of its bathing water – only nine out of 420 locations in England were given the rating in 2018, meaning they fail to meet the minimum standard.

The ratings are made according to the average sampling results over

a four-year period, with the latest results dropping the water quality at Leigh Bell Wharf from "sufficient".

Raised levels of bacteria were found in samples, a Southend Council spokesman said.

The council confirmed it is putting up signs at the beach with the words "advice against bathing" on them.

Scott Dolling, director of culture, tourism and property at the council, called the latest classification "very disappointing".

"We have a duty to ensure that the public is able to make informed

choices about whether or not to swim in our coastal waters and that is exactly what we are doing," he said.

"Over the past months, we have been working hard with the Environment Agency and Anglian Water, who own the sewage system, to identify possible sources of contamination and take action.

"Together, we aim to improve the bathing water quality, improve future sampling results and see the beach reclassified as at least "sufficient" in future years.

"However, until then, we advise

the public not to bathe there."

The council said that the bacteria tested for – E.coli and intestinal enterococci – are usually found in faeces and suggested possible sources including misconnected sewers from properties, dog mess on the beach or sediment and seaweed.

An Anglian Water spokesman said the "poor" water quality is "likely to be the result of several sources of environmental pollution having a combined detrimental effect".

● Turn to page 3

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Opposition holds top posts on key council committees

OPPOSITION groups on Southend Council have taken control of key decision-making committees, *writes STEVE SHAW.*

Councillors last week came together for the first full council meeting since the local elections, which saw the Conservatives lose their majority and Cllr Tony Cox take over as council leader of a minority administration.

While opposition parties failed to form a coalition that would oust the minority administration, they did vote to ensure that they had top positions in some of the council's most important committees, beating every nomination the Tories put forward.

Liberal Democrat leader, Cllr Carole Mulroney, took the chairman role on



ROLE: Cllr Carole Mulroney

the development committee, which has the final say on many of the planning decisions that come to the council.

Independent councillor Nick Ward was made chairman of the licensing



NO SURPRISE: Cllr Tony Cox

committee. Opposition councillors were also made council representatives on 26 outside bodies, including the Essex Pension Fund, the Local Government Association General

Assembly and the Southend Residents Forum.

Cllr Cox said after the meeting: "We still have positions guaranteed on those committee but to be fair to the opposition groups I am not surprised that they divvied up the top positions between them. It was not a great shock or surprise."

He acknowledged there will be challenges as a minority administration but reiterated that he wants a new way of doing politics that focuses on "openness, honesty and transparency."

Labour councillor Matt Dent said: "The result bodes well for trust between the opposition parties. There is going to have to be a new way of working on the council, with more cooperation."

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **THE** train line between Southend Victoria and Wickford is set to close for more than a week.

It will be shut from Saturday, May 25 to Sunday, June 2 while work takes place as part of a £46million project to replace overhead wiring.

Network Rail advised customers to make alternative travel arrangements, as there will be a "limited" rail replacement bus service and reduced train service between Wickford and London Liverpool Street.

For more, visit greateranglia.co.uk/southendworks.

● **WORK** is under way on a skate park in Warrior Square, Southend and the borough council is looking for help on naming the new facility.

Southend Council gained planning permission to build the park in December.

Residents have until the end of May to send in their suggested names and council officers will select a shortlist that will go back to a public vote.

Send suggestions to @SouthendBC on Twitter, [facebook.com/SouthendBCOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/SouthendBCOfficial) or email sk8@southend.gov.uk.

● **A SERVICE** is being held to commemorate Leigh fishermen who lost their lives in a bid to rescue British forces from Dunkirk during the Second World War.

The Dunkirk Memorial Service is at noon on June 1 at the Dunkirk Memorial in St Clement's churchyard.

Prayers will be said for Frank Osborne, Harry Osborne, Harry Noakes and Harold Graham Porter who gave their lives trying to rescue British forces on June 1, 1940.

The service will also feature music and readings.

'Reports very concerning' for a family resort

From front page

He added that the company had spent more than £150,000 on understanding the issues at Leigh Bell Wharf, and is monitoring its equipment to ensure it is working as it should.

"Together with Southend Council and the Environment Agency, we are using state-of-the-art technology including CCTV, dye tracing, sampling and on-foot surveys of the coastal area surrounding the bathing water to understand what is causing the issue."

Despite the reclassification, the 2018 samples at Leigh Bell Wharf showed an overall improvement compared to the previous year.

Anna Burns, area environment manager at the Environment Agency, said: "Despite the deterioration in the overall classification, we were encouraged to see the improvement in last year's bathing water results for Leigh."

"We are committed to continuing

our work with Anglian Water and Southend Council to eliminate pollution sources and improve water quality again this season."

The three organisations say they have produced action plans to improve the water quality to at least being rated "sufficient" at the next classification, and have been monitoring, investigating and tackling potential sources of the pollution causing the water quality issues.

Leigh ward councillor and leader of the Liberal Democrat group on the council, Carole Mulroney, said she has been urging the council to take appropriate action for some time.

She added: "The reports are very concerning. Leigh beach is a small but vital part of the Old Town and is the resort of many families during the fine weather."

To see the water quality data online, visit www.gov.uk/quality-of-local-bathing-water.



WARNING: Leigh Bell Wharf beach, Leigh-on-Sea

Photo: Martin Dalton

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NEWS

Leader's position on police cuts falls short

by Piers Meyler*Local democracy reporter*

THE leader of Essex County Council has been accused of misjudging crime priorities by failing to stand up for the county in the face of police cuts, despite pledging £500,000 of council money to fight county line drugs gangs. David Finch repeated council action to offer £500,000 of extra funding to help police tackle so-called county lines drugs in Full Council last week.

But the move was decried as trivial given the scale of cuts the force has faced – it lost 400 officers between 2011 and last year.

And although those numbers are increasing again – 150 new police officers were recruited last year and another 215 will be over the next year – Lib Dem councillor, Barry Aspinell, said Cllr Finch should have spoken out more at the time.

He said: "In February you gave us the spiel about this being the best this council or any administration has ever put forward in this great county of ours. "And now you are crowing about putting money into helping the police and crime commissioner look after some of the problems we have got in Essex."

"Where were you when the previous police and crime commissioner closed dozens of police stations around Essex and sacked hundreds of police officers, leading to this rise in crime?"

**LEADER: David Finch**

"We have young people in Essex being knifed to death. We have drugs running rife throughout the county."

"And you are telling us you are putting £500,000 to fight that."

"We needed you when it was needed to stand up for us and our community to stop the Conservative crime commissioner move to reduce the effectiveness of crime prevention in Essex."

On tackling the scourge of county lines gangs, the first Violence and Vulnerability Round Table took place on May 10.

This forum is the first of a series of multi-agency meetings which bring together the police, youth offending services, public health, and local government to create a partnership approach to dealing with all violent crime in Essex.

ECC says the funding will help the partnership to undertake early identification, referral and support of those at risk, to provide education, myth busting, skills and qualifications to vulnerable young people so they are less likely to become involved in gang activity, and to undertake disruption activity to create the conditions in which gang activity cannot thrive.

Cllr Finch said: "The decision made in terms of the force and distribution of the force and efficiency of the force is a matter for the police and crime commissioner."

"Let me be clear, in putting forward the £500,000. I didn't do that for the benefit of the police force, I did that for the benefit of residents of Essex."

"Those are the people who are suffering with crime and those are the people who are suffering from the issues of drug peddling."

"It would be remiss of me and my cabinet to ignore those issues."

"Where there is the opportunity to find funding it is the right thing to do."

Chemists



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Derix Healthcare Pharmacy, 1065 London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3JP. Sunday to Friday 8am-11pm, Saturday 8am-9pm

Tides

**High tide at Southend Pier (BST)**

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Fri:	0446	5.40	1653	5.20
Sat:	0530	5.10	1735	4.90
Sun:	0620	4.80	1825	4.70
Mon:	0718	4.70	1929	4.60
Tue:	0825	4.60	2042	4.60
Wed:	9032	4.80	2148	4.80

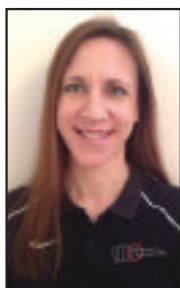
High tide at Tilbury (BST)

Thu:	0436	6.30	1647	6.10
Fri:	0518	6.00	1722	5.80
Sat:	0601	5.70	1802	5.60
Sun:	0650	5.50	1852	5.30
Mon:	0748	5.30	1956	5.20
Tue:	0851	5.30	2107	5.20
Wed:	0955	5.40	2214	5.40

Back Pain And Sciatica Workshop – Back By Request...

"Are You Living With OR Worried About Someone Suffering With Chronic Back Pain?"

"Get Relief From Back Pain, Find Out What's Going Wrong, Or Just Get A Solid Second Opinion, When You Attend This Free Back Pain Workshop?"

By Leading UK Back Pain Expert, Wendy McCloud

If you or a loved one is suffering from chronic back pain – so bad that it can even stop, you from walking – then I'd like to **invite you to attend this free workshop** which may best the most important thing you do this year.

It may unlock the agonising mystery of your back pain and show you a way to get back to the life you had before back pain struck...

- A life where you can sleep at night without tossing and turning, hoping to find that one position where the pain stops.
- A life where when you wake up in the morning and it doesn't take 20 mins to get out of bed... And then another 20 minutes to get your slippers on because your back is feeling so stiff, tight and painful.
- A life where you can be confident that you can pick up and play with your children/grandchildren without worrying about if your back will "go out" or "spasm" which leaves you upset, frustrated or even depressed as you are now crippled either on the floor or in a chair scared to move.
- A life where you too can enjoy all the other things you see others doing that you currently can't due to your back pain... Basically a life without the curse of back pain.

If You Feel Let Down, Disappointed, And Even Sceptical About What Can Be Done To Help You, Then Read On...

My name is Wendy McCloud, one of the UK's leading back pain specialists, and I've been helping people like you live with much less back pain for 12 years now.

What we know is that so many people are confused or disappointed by the advice they've previously been given, unsure and sometimes even angry that they didn't get the results they were hoping for and promised and perhaps now are feeling sceptical about the chances of living with less back pain in the future... in fact a lot of people with chronic back pain cannot see a future that includes happiness and I speak from personal experience as I too am a chronic back pain sufferer but I have got my life back and I can totally empathise with anyone who is struggling with it... And that's why I created this free one hour Workshop entitled: **"The Best Kept Secrets Of Easing Lower Back Pain And Sciatica - And Staying Better!"** and I decided to make it free so my team and I can help as many people as possible escape the daily grind of back pain. It's FREE to you and a family member or friend to attend.

Here's What You'll Learn At This Back Pain Workshop

1. Discover how to get to the root cause of your back pain and make sure it never comes back
2. Why pills, visiting your GP, NHS physio, other private physios, spinal adjustments/cracking your back haven't solved your problem yet!
3. The number one cause of low back pain... Do you have this one?
4. The most successful treatments for low back pain that doesn't involve pills, injections or surgery.
5. Take home with you on the day the best exercises that will help you get out of pain fast and will help to get you more mobile and worrying less about your back.

We think when you come along that you will agree with many attendees who have come to this workshop before you, who now say that there truly is a life free from low back pain, even if like me have suffered for 20 years or more.

If you're currently seeing a doctor or another healthcare provider but not getting the results you are looking for, or you are thinking about going to see someone, or you are living a life popping gut rotting pills or you just don't know what to do for the best, then please consider coming along to this FREE 60 minute workshop which will reveal "The Best Kept Secrets For Living With Less Back Pain and Staying Pain free!"

You Should Attend This Workshop If:

1. You are aged 40+ and you suffer from low back pain – or pain, pins and needles or numbness in your leg that gets worse when you sit or stand or walk further than 10 minutes.
2. You have been told you've got sciatica and you have been given pills or told it's your age and you have to live with it.
3. You want to end this back pain naturally so you can get back to walking, running, cycling or whatever it is you are currently missing out on.

You Should Not Attend This Workshop If:

1. You are attending just out of "curiosity". We have just 10 seats available so please do not take up a seat from someone who genuinely needs and wants our help.
2. You have a closed mind and won't listen to or take on any new advice
3. You want your back clicked as you think that's the problem solved. All the clicks and cracks are a quick pain reliever and won't fix cause of the problem.

If You Meet Our Criteria Above Here's What To Do Next...

Please call us now. Lines open today at 9am. We only have "10" seats available for the next Workshop to be held on **Saturday 1st June at 10am.**

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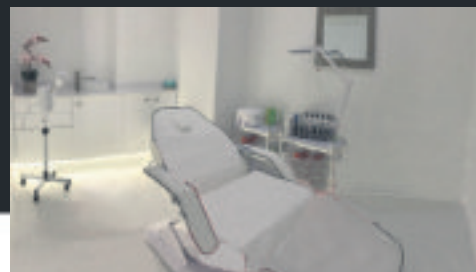
Sincerely, Wendy McCloud

P.S. This Back Pain And Sciatica Workshop will take place at our **Southend Clinic, on Christchurch Road.**

Spaces are limited, so please call NOW on: **01702 613542 to secure your seat.** Tea, coffee, soft drinks and refreshments will be provided for you. **We know you will breathe a sigh of relief** once you realise how easy it is to finally start living life again as you want, with much less back pain and without the need for pills, injections, scans, x-rays or surgery!

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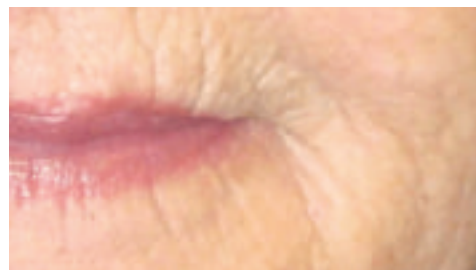
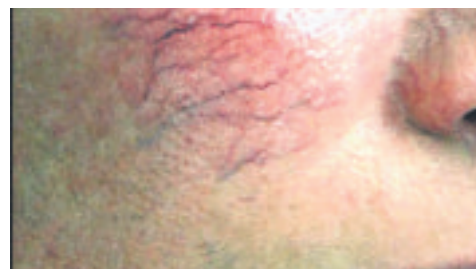
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CHILDREN at a primary school in Shoeburyness enjoyed a kick-about this week.

The youngsters, from Friars Primary School, on Constable Way, played football during a visit from Southend United's

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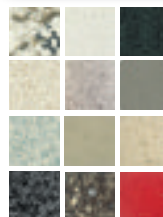
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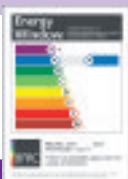
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ON THE CASE - BY EDWARD CASE

A poor excuse for entertainment

LAST week was Mental Awareness Week (there's also a National Sausage Week on the calendar, so don't put too much store in it) and I suppose it's ironic that the death of a man days after filming an episode of The Jeremy Kyle Show should fall in that period.

ITV acted quickly in not only pulling the show from its schedules, but also taking all previous episodes from the ITV Hub.

Within 48 hours it was announced that after 14 years as daytime TV's most viewed show, The Jeremy Kyle Show had been cancelled permanently.

Kyle has never been my cup of tea. The show - a British version of the format pioneered by Jerry Springer in the US - was basically bear-baiting and the stocks brought into the 21st century.

It was poverty porn, where society's have-nots were encouraged to fight out their personal issues in front of a jeering and cheering studio audience while the host would look upon them with utter disdain and at some point shout in their faces that they were basically worthless scum.

All in the name of entertainment.

Of course, the show's supporters will argue that

Jeza was engaged in conflict resolution and that he helped a lot of people who appeared in front of the cameras.

On the few times I found myself in front of a television when it was on, that was far from the impression I got.

Yet no matter how predictable it became, people watched, taking comfort that no matter how bad things were, at least their life wasn't as messed up as the dentally challenged, shell-suited sub working class fighting it out for the cameras.

Their horrible lives made you, the viewer (voyeur), feel better about yourself.

The show dehumanised its participants, especially those found to have cheated, lied or failed the social morality test in some way.

But its swift cancellation and the eradication of all vestiges of the show from ITV's catch up system shows an alarming double standard when one looks at another one of the channel's reality shows - Love Island.

Two former contestants have committed suicide in recent months yet there is no talk of this grubby offering being cleaned from the screen when in some ways it's actually worse than Kyle.

At least on there people were aware of what they

were getting into, even if some of them seemed to think they could outsmart a lie detector when they didn't even have the gumption to colour co-ordinate their track suit bottoms with their tops.

The people who appear on Love Island are looking for fame, plain and simple.

Their vacuous self-absorption, which leaves them with an embarrassing lack of any awareness of what's going on in the world, is celebrated and mocked in equal measure.

But they don't care because once they get home, trash magazines are going to want them on their covers, celebrity dating, skiing or cookery shows will come calling and clubs are going to pay YOU to go see THEM.

At least for a while.

Neither Love Island nor Jeremy Kyle's guests tend to inspire our sympathy. But these are human beings - gloriously flawed, but people all the same - and whether it's British Pie Week or Kick Someone When They're Down Week, their mental welfare should be a duty of care on the part of the producers of these TV circus shows in which, who knows, YOU could be the next clown..

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WORTHY CAUSE: The players in the college charity match at Roots Hall

Students' charity match nets cash for baby care unit

SOUTH Essex College held a football match to raise money for Southend Hospital's special care baby unit.

The match, on Thursday at Southend United's Roots Hall ground, saw current and ex-students, as well as members of staff, take to the pitch.

The event, which raised more than £650, was organised by level three business students Ben Piper, Alex Drewer and Conor Henry as part of

one of their course modules.

The team, made up from staff and former students won 11-3.

Business lecturer Steve Newman, who supported the students with the event, said the match was a huge success.

He said: "It was great to see everyone come together and enjoy themselves while supporting this worthy cause."

Young have designs on their 'hoods

SOUTHEND schoolchildren were given the chance to submit their visions of their ideal future neighbourhood and their entries are going on display.

The Design Your Neighbourhood competition aimed to involve young people in the future planning of the borough, a Southend Council

spokesman said.

Entries will be exhibited at the Focal Point Gallery until Sunday, May 26.

Peter Geraghty, director for planning and transport, said: "We have been overwhelmed with the brilliant submissions for the Design Your Neighbourhood competition."



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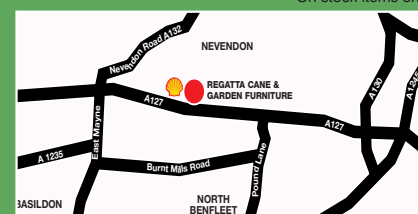
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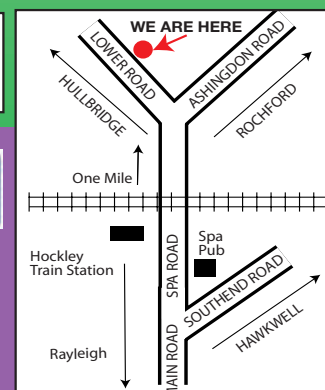
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YA child abuse exposé shows crucial role of regional press

From front page

the public and saw the YA fend off competition from giant newspapers such as the Manchester Evening News and the Birmingham Mail.

Host Nick Ferrari said the YA's Shoebury Sex Ring exposé had "required tenacity, intelligence and courage".

He told the audience at Savoy Place, London: "Hours of work has led to the police investigation being reopened and the victims' stories being told at last."

Chief reporter Charles Thomson, who has led the Shoebury campaign since 2015, was named Weekly Reporter of the Year at the ceremony, having been highly commended in the same category for the last two years.

Mr Ferrari said Charles had "impressed judges with his depth of investigative reporting", writing "stories that amply demonstrate the tremendous value of local reporting".

Judges described the YA as a free weekly paper "that consistently punches above its weight, earning nominations for its strong investigative coverage in national journalism awards, in categories alongside large, daily city newspapers and national news outlets".

The ceremony featured a tribute to journalist Lyra McKee, who was posthumously honoured with the Journalists' Charity Award



AWARD: YA chief reporter Charles Thomson receives his award from LBC breakfast show presenter Nick Ferrari

after being shot dead last month in Northern Ireland.

Her mother and sister received a standing ovation as they collected the prize.

Ian Murray, executive director of the Society of Editors, said: "From covering local democracy to ensuring open justice the length and breadth of the UK, the local media is alive and playing a vital role – and these awards prove what good shape the industry is in."

Charles said: "It is a great honour to have been recognised in these two categories and I must thank all those who voted for us in the Making a Difference category. Our Shoebury investigation remains ongoing. Most recently, we have taken legal action against Essex County Council, in an effort to force it to publish the results of a child sex abuse inquiry which it secretly commissioned more than 20 years ago and has kept hidden away ever since."

YA editor, Mick Ferris, said: "I'm delighted that we have been recognised for our work in exposing the ongoing cover up of historic child sex abuse and Charlie thoroughly deserves his accolade."

"This investigation is far from over and the authorities intent on hiding the truth of this appalling scandal should take note that we will not stop until those responsible are held to account."

Cowardly parties fighting for survival

ANOTHER wast of time ended with the predictable result of the Prime Minister and leader of the opposition failing to reach an agreement.

Surely Theresa May must have known that no agreement would be made with the Labour leader before the talks started. Jeremy Corbyn has always been too smart to weaken the Labour Parties chances of winning the next election.

The problem is that everyone including those in the EU are smarter than our Prime Minister, or am I missing something?

The Prime Minister has done a great job of running down the clock, but this is just delaying the final outcome which is as we all know, unpredictable.

Whether you are a remainer or leaver the UK Parliament's failures have shown how strong a hold the EU has over us and this alone is a good reason to get out now.

Jeremy Corbyn has just one interest and that is to destroy the Tory Party and strengthen Labour ready for a general election.

He has no interest in the UK and I can't believe that people can not see through him and his obvious lust for power.

Theresa May is sadly a very weak negotiator as she has proven and her pretence that she wants to honour the referendum whilst making agreements with the EU that keeps us in it.

The only way the referendum can be delivered is to leave without a deal and then let's see the EU beg for trade deals. Arguments that our economy will collapse are false and we will still deal with the EU plus other countries worldwide.

The EU is failing and so has the UK Parliament so we need a change in the system that ensures we keep and build on our democracy.

Are we so afraid and weak that we feel we cannot survive outside of the EU or should we be positive and looking forward to a great future as a world leader?

The Tories, Labour and others are fighting for the survival of their individual parties.

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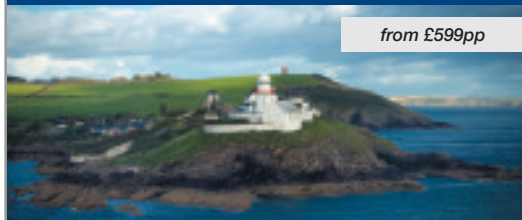
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Home improvements

As the housing market slows in some parts of the UK, many homeowners are choosing to improve their property, rather than move – and research from Post Office Money suggests you can potentially add significant value by doing so.

But before you start, it's important to weigh up the costs involved, which could outweigh any value that may be added. Here's how people are funding improvements, the value they potentially add, and how to keep costs under control...

How much are homeowners spending?

According to Post Office Money's research, nearly two-thirds (64%) of homeowners have made improvements over the past five years, spending £14,015 on average. The costs can stack up depending on whether you're using savings or borrowing cash, which could mean significant interest charges. In order to fund renovations, three-quarters (74%) of home-improvers used savings, one in six (16%) a personal loan or credit card, while one in 16 (6%) used equity release or mortgages, Post Office Money found. A separate study suggests some costs may be rising. Shawbrook Bank says analysis of its loan data shows the average size of a home improvement loan rose by 16%, when comparing the first quarter of 2019 with the same period for 2018.

How much can home improvements add to the value of a home?

Post Office Money says analysis based upon the average price tag on a three-bed semi-detached home in the UK (£286,000) found properties with certain home improvements were on the market for around 19% higher than the average asking price. While this is an indicator of the value that home improvements can add, it's important to bear in mind that the price a homeowner wants for their property isn't necessarily the price they're going to get. If renovating with selling up in mind, estate agents may be able to give pointers on what features buyers look for in your area.

How much could different home improvements help boost value by?

Post Office Money's research searched prop-



erties on Zoopla and renovation websites, to estimate the cost of a home improvement. It found properties with a landscaped garden are likely to have higher price tags than average.

Estimated cost of garden landscaping was £2,750. It found properties with a landscaped garden, as well as other features which would push up a home's value, tend to be on the market for 77% above average house prices. Meanwhile, the cost of an extension was £80,000, and homes with this feature were listed for sale for 37% above average prices. A new kitchen was estimated at £7,500 (properties with this were marketed for 26% above the average price).

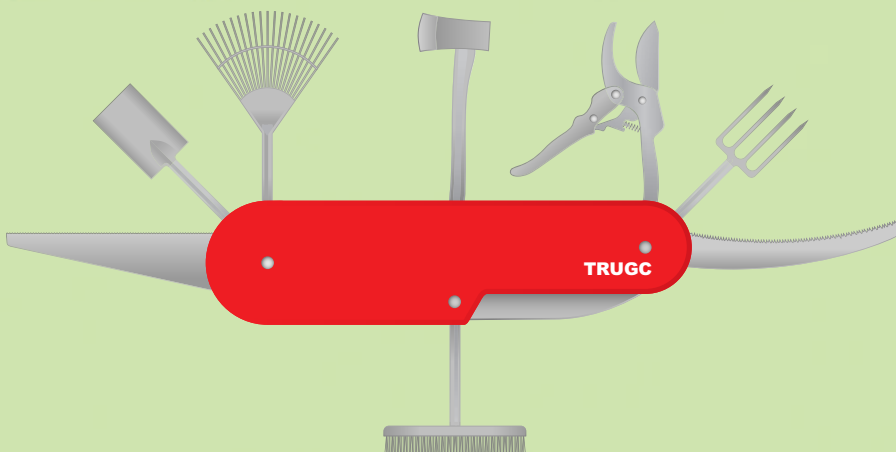
How do home-improvers make sure they keep on top of costs?

Here are some tips from Paul Went, managing director of the consumer division at Shawbrook Bank, for financing home improvements:

1. Set yourself a clear budget and think carefully about all the costs involved.
2. Take time to explore different financing options to decide which is best for you - whether it's by using savings or by borrowing.
3. If you're borrowing money, shop around to find the best rates and keep abreast of how potential changes to interest rates may affect your costs in the long-term.
4. Consider a professional valuation to help understand what the potential return on investment might be from the renovations you plan.
5. Keep your insurer informed of any home improvements or renovations to ensure that your current policy covers any changes in the value of your property.

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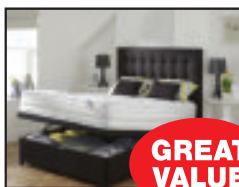


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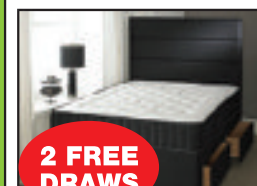


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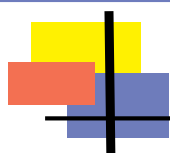


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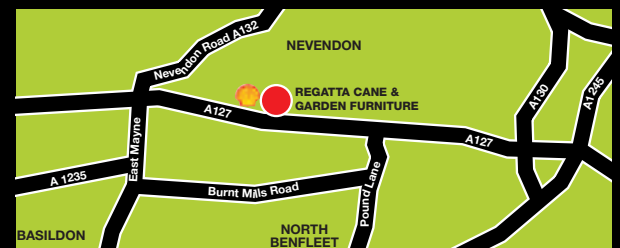
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LIFESTYLE

CRAIG REVELS IN MUSICALS

STRICTLY: Craig Revel-Horwood

WITH *Annie The Musical* coming to the Cliffs Pavilion on Monday May 27, *Strictly* judge Craig Revel-Horwood talks about his return to the stage as Miss Hannigan.

What made you want to return to *Annie*, and what is so appealing about the role of Miss Hannigan?

I just love this character so much. I am deeply in love with her. I think she is absolutely fantastic and an extremely misunderstood woman. It's such a wonderful opportunity to take her from the West End out on tour and to play her in theatres I have never performed *Annie* in before. Playing her is like an actor's playground, she is a tyrant and a villain, and those are always the most fun characters to play. I couldn't believe that they wanted me to play Miss Hannigan at first, but I thought it would be great, and a real challenge. I play her for real – she's not a pantomime dame, there's no mucking about or breaking the fourth wall, she's a very real character in a beautifully written show.

Do you find playing a woman fun, or does it come with any particular challenges?

You need to be honest and real with it. Obviously body language has a lot to do with that, also the voice and the accent of course – which I spent six months perfecting. As *Annie* is set in 1930s New York, it's really nice to play a part who speaks differently than almost anyone does these days. It was a really enjoyable challenge.

Audiences know you best as a judge on *Strictly Come Dancing*, do you enjoy performing and dancing on the stage as opposed to judging others?

I grew up on musicals. I did *West Side Story* in Australia and then went into *Me and My Girl* and *La Cage aux Folles*. I joined the famous Lido de Paris and the *Moulin Rouge* and that led to West End shows. The last musical I appeared in in the West End was *Crazy For You* which opened in 1993. I had a really fun year that year. I then left to become a director and choreographer, and subsequently a judge on *Strictly*.

My first hoorah back onto the boards was when I did panto ten years ago, and that reignited my passion for performing. When I was then asked to do *Annie* a few years ago I couldn't believe it, but it's such a talented cast, I couldn't say no.

There's a vacancy on the *Strictly* judging panel – do you have a dream judge you'd like to sit alongside or perhaps a fantasy contestant you'd love to see take part?

I'm certainly going to miss Darcy a lot, she's a class act. There are a lot of people who could do it, and I want them to choose someone who is right for the job and has an opinion which is the most important thing.

It's long been said never work with children or animals, but in *Annie* you do both! Are there challenges that come with this or do they bring something extra to the show?

We have three sets of children on *Annie*, so they bring something really organic to the show. You never get the same show twice. You have to play it differently with each set of children and they are so talented and doing incredible work on the stage. They will come up with stuff and you've got to react to it.

You're busy all year with *Strictly*, performing and often choreographing and directing shows as well. What do you like to do during any down time you get?

I like sleeping in my own bed and cooking in my own home. There's nothing better to pass the time – whether to make up some new recipes or really get stuck into something. I love it, I could cook for days on end.

Have you ever been given a piece of advice or words of wisdom that have stuck with you?

My teacher used to say, "You need to be like a tiger and fearless", which is very apt for this industry. You must be prepared to fail and once you get used to that you start learning.

Listening to your inner voice is the most important thing, especially when making decisions. I don't often rule with my head. I rule with my heart.

What can audiences expect when they come to see you in *Annie*?

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ROCKETMAN (15, 121 mins)

Taron Egerton as Elton John
PA Photo/Paramount Pictures/David Appleby

EXECUTIVE produced by Elton John and directed by Dexter Fletcher, substitute captain of Oscar-winning juggernaut *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Rocketman* is an occasionally thrilling but largely conventional biopic that won't go breaking the hearts of the singer-songwriter's fans.

Scriptwriter Lee Hall, who pirouetted to the Academy Awards with *Billy Elliot*, attempts to serve John's competing personalities: moments of quiet introspection for the self-doubting introvert emotionally bruised by his childhood, and splashes of eye-popping spectacle for the flamboyant peacock who escapes reality with snorts of nose candy.

The polite amalgamation of *Bohemian Rhapsody* and *The Greatest Showman* is easy to admire but harder to adore, and only truly achieves lift-off in the spectacularly choreographed musical set-pieces that enliven a briskly sketched opening hour.

The lyric of *I Want Love* becomes a cri de coeur for young Reginald Dwight (Kit Connor) and his fractured clan – stern military father Stanley (Steven Macintosh), flighty mother Sheila (Bryce Dallas Howard) and supportive grandmother Ivy (Gemma Jones).

Each member of the household appropriates lines from the song to echo their inner turmoil as Fletcher's camera glides around the family home.

Reg dances energetically from child to man (played by Taron Egerton) to the foot-stomping beat of *Saturday Night's Alright For Fighting* and the enduring bromance with lyricist Bernie Taupin (Jamie

Bell) touchingly takes shape as the melody of *Your Song* reverberates from the piano in the Dwights' living room.

"I love you mate... but not like that," whis-

pers Bernie after Reg moves in for an ill-advised kiss.

The film traces Reg's metamorphosis into Elton Hercules John via formative years

signed to DJM Records, whose profanity-spewing founder Dick James (Stephen Graham) simply demands "songs that grey-haired tramps can whistle in the street".

John and Taupin oblige and are rewarded with two gigs at The Troubadour club in Los Angeles.

The touch paper on stardom is lit and John Reid (Richard Madden) worms his way into Elton's affections and bed, adopting the role of personal manager as the singer gorges on an all-you-can-eat buffet of sex, drugs, booze and self-loathing.

Rocketman labours the damage wrought by John's old man, who rejects little Reg's request for a hug by tersely retorting, "Don't be soft".

Egerton is endearing and goes one better than Rami Malek by singing John's songs rather than lip-syncing original vocals.

The script doesn't sidestep John's homosexuality nor does it convincingly unravel the psychological power struggle between the singer and the Machiavellian and controlling Reid, who was a similarly toxic presence in *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

When Troubadour owner Doug Weston (Tate Donovan) advises John to "put on a great show and don't kill yourself with drugs" Fletcher's straps on a feathered headdress and does its best to oblige.

RATING: 6/10
Released: May 22

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PLEASE NOTE: We cannot guarantee that all entries will be included. However, you can add the details of your event to our website at www.yellowad.co.uk

Friday, May 24

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- Mighty Mites parent and toddler drop-in session – Civic Hall, Grays, 9.15am-12.45pm.
- Introduction to silk painting and porcelain painting – Royal Naval Assoc, 73-79 East Street, Southend, SS2 6LQ. 9.45am to noon. £6. No experience needed.
- Counselling Service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Overeaters Anonymous Basildon Group – Nevendon Community Hall, St Peter's Church, Church Lane, Basildon, SS13 1BZ. 8pm, Colin, 07446 080054.
- George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, over-50s, beginners tai chi: 10am to noon, darts: 2-4pm, marquetry: 10am to noon, art: 12.30-2.30pm. Snooker and bingo, £2. 01268 465854.
- Sequence Dancing – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, 2.15-3.15pm. 01268 465854.
- Book Club – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, 10-11am. 01268 465854.
- Drama Classes – Helen O'Grady Drama Academy, The Stables, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, designed to increase children's life skills. Call Dina 01245 328680.
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Saturday, May 25

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- Rayleigh History Walk – Rayleigh

- Windmill, Bellingham Lane, SS6 7ED. £2. Details 01268 775328.
- Saturday Club – for people with special needs, 9am to noon, games, music, arts, crafts. Ages 14 upwards, Frypa Hall, The Fryth, Basildon. 01268 415409.
- Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Yugioh Club – play and trade yugioh, 120 Southend Road, St Catherine's Church Hall, Wickford, SS11 8EB, mini-tournaments, 1.30-4.20pm. 07985 671289.
- Saturday Morning Club – St Michael's Church Hall, Leigh Road, 10am to noon, free entry, 01702 437863.

Sunday, May 26

- Canvey Miniature Railway – open every Sunday until October 13. 10.30am-3.45pm, choice of two railways, steam and electric locos, adults and children £1 each a ride, weather permitting. 07950 659596.
- Family service – Christ Church, Wickford, 10.30am.
- Brush Strokes Art Group – Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh-on-Sea, 9.15am-12.15pm, 01277 627043.
- Exercise Class for stroke victims – St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend, 2.30pm. 01702 612509.
- Sunday School – The Ark, Hadleigh Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, SS7 2PQ, 11am to noon, ages three to 10. Call 07585 601815 or 07967 913344.
- Quaker Meeting for silent worship and meditation – Quaker Meeting House, Dundonald Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, 10.30-11.30am, followed by conversation.
- King's Church, Southend – Blenheim School, off Blenheim Chase, Leigh, 10.30am to noon, 01702 523639.
- Greek Community of Southend & District, Church of St Barbara, St Phanourios and St Paul's, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff, 10am to noon. 01702 466435.
- Sunday Club – TGH Evangelical Church, Kiln Road, Thundersley, (ages three to 12), 10.45-11.45am, details 01702 554904.
- Mojo Friendship Club – Travellers' Joy, Downhall Road, Rayleigh, 07757 658799.
- Hockley & District Horticultural Society trading hut – behind Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road, Hawkwell, 10am to midday. Membership £3.

Monday, May 27

- Coffee & Chat – Kings Road United

- Reformed Church, 91 Crowstone Road, Westcliff, SS0 8LH. 10am to midday. 01702 352668.
- Walking football sessions – Civic Hall, Grays, 6-7pm. £2 per session.
- Ron Spack's Jazztet, Oakwood, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, 8.30pm. 01702 512819.
- Bowls – FSSS Club, Gardiners Close, Basildon. All-weather green, free coaching, details 01268 416467.
- Green bowls – Mopsies Park, Vange, details 01268 558756.
- Coffee Morning and sale of goods – Christ Church, Wickford, 9am to noon.
- Club 50+ – First floor, The Haven Older People's Community Hub, 138-140 Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff, SS0 7LW. 9am-4.30pm Monday to Friday (last entry 3pm). 01702 345373.
- Coffee Morning – for parents in Craylands and Felmores area. Briscoe Community Centre, 9-11am, free workshop, coffee and creche. Call 07880 035968, or just turn up.
- Dance Class – ballroom, Latin American, Ashington and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 546219/542349.
- Leigh Scabble Club – 7-10pm. Wesley Hall, Leigh Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Turn up or call 01268 727915.
- Senior Citizens Club – Richmond Hall, Benfleet, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Counselling Service – Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Over-50s Keep-fit Classes – Fryerns Community Centre, Pat 01268 770294.
- Duplicate Bridge – Balmoral Bridge Club, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh (opp Thames Drive), 1.15pm-4.30pm. 01702 343611 or 01702 520993.
- Duplicate Bridge – Thorpe Bay Bridge Club, 62 Southchurch Blvd, Southend, all standards, 2-4.45pm (no partner needed), 7.30-10.30pm, call Danny 07843 771774.
- Weekly Craft Workshop – St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, 6-8pm, Michelle 07730 582784.
- Basildon Players Amateur Dramatic Group – 8-10pm, Bowers and Pitsea Football Club, Crown Avenue, Pitsea, SS13 2BE. 07913 426371, join@basildonplayers.co.uk.
- Zumba – Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.15-10am. 01268 465432.
- Short Mat Bowls Club – Westwood School, Hadleigh, Monday and Wednesday evenings, Kevin 01268 792433.
- Short Mat Bowls, Thundersley, beginners welcome, details 01268 779174.
- Indoor Short Mat Bowls – Prittlewell

- Bowls Club, Priory Park, Southend, Ray 01268 777666.
- Indoor Bowls – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, Monday 2-4pm, 01268 465854.
- Whist – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, 10am to noon, details 01268 465854.
- Senior Citizens Club – Ghyllgrove Centre, Butneys, 1.30-3.30pm, 01268 293995.
- Evening of clairvoyance – 57 Point Road, Canvey, SS8 7TT. 3pm, £3 all profits to charity. Tel: 07922 001433 or 01268 691922.
- Fitness Walking – from Leigh Tennis Club, Highlands Boulevard, Leigh-on-Sea, 7.15-8.15pm, 01702 715509.
- Scabble Club – Wesley Church Hall, Elm Road, Leigh Broadway, no partner needed, 7-10pm, £3, call 01268 727915.
- Hadleigh Castle Townswomen's Guild – Appliance Hall, Old Fire Station, High Street SS7 2PA, 1.30-3.30pm. Visitors £2.50.
- Couples. Table tennis, snooker, 8-10pm, St Andrew's Church Hall, Ashington. Drop in or call 01702 548597.

Tuesday, May 28

- Painting class – The Studio, Glebelands Nursery, Hawkwell, Hockley, SS5 4JY. 10.30am-12.30pm. Details 01702 30717.
- Folk Music – The Hov at Anchor Folk Club, Royal British Legion, 7/9 Northview Drive, Westcliff, 8pm. 01702 715111.
- Social Dance – 1.45pm, St Cedd's Church, Bridgewater Drive, Westcliff. Ballroom, sequence, Latin, 01702 618771.
- Singles Social Group – The Mews, Nelson Mews off Clarence Road car park, Southend, age 50-plus, 8pm. 07970 432994.
- Singles Friendship Club for 50-plus – South Benfleet Social Club, 8.15pm, 01268 692998.
- Vange Tots – Vange Community Centre, Vange Hill Drive, Vange, 9.30-11.30am, admission £1, 01268 498642.
- Table Top Sale – Outpatients Foyer, Southend Hospital, 9.30am-3pm, Breathe Easy Southend, supporting people with lung problems. 01702 258661.
- Little Lunchers Activity Club – St Michael's Church, Rayleigh, 11.45am-11.55pm.
- Pathfinders Blind and Partially Sighted Group – Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Clay Hill Road, Basildon, 10am-2pm.
- New and nearly new stall – outside St Martin's Church, Town Centre, Basildon, (if wet in church foyer), 10am to noon.
- Craft Group – Oasis Coffee House, 189 Leigh Road, Leigh, 2.30-4pm. 01702 471873.
- Bingo and Hov – Wick Community Centre, Wickford, 1.30-4pm, details 01268 570575.

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This immaculate home offers spacious ground floor accommodation with a delightful open plan kitchen/diner, 17ft lounge, cloakroom, three bedrooms, modern bathroom/wc, garage, ample parking, and elevated gardens.

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Situated in a prime location backing onto parklands – yet within minutes walk to Rayleigh High Street, station and local shops – we strongly recommend an early internal viewing.

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£445,000

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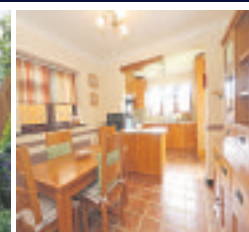
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Bradley Avenue, THUNDERSLEY / £550,000



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Burlington Gardens, HADLEIGH / O.I.R.O £375,000



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Briar Close, HOCKLEY / £420,000



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Spacious Four Bedroom Detached Family House \ Lounge 18'1 X 11'8 \ Dining Room 13'6 X 9'0 \ Kitchen 12'0 X 8'7 \ Bedroom One 11'8 X 11'1 \ Bedroom Two 11'8 X 9'0 \ Bedroom Three 12'1 X 8'9 \ Bedroom Four 8'9 X 8'8 \ No Onward Chain \ Close To Local Shops And Hockley Train Station \ **Call Hockley Office 01702 207720 or live chat at amosstates.com**

MARINE ESTATE \ £550,000

Three/Four Bedroom Detached Bungalow On The 'Marine Estate' \ Lounge 14' x 14' \ Dining Room 12'3 x 12' \ Kitchen 11'3 x 8'3 \ Bedroom One 14' x 13'1 \ Bedroom Two 12'5 x 10'6 \ Bedroom Three 10'5 x 9'4 \ Bathroom & Separate W.C \ Good Size Rear Garden \ Garage & Off Street Parking \ Double Glazed Throughout \ Extremely Popular Location \ Few Minutes Walk Of Leigh Station \ Easy Access Of Shops & Leigh Broadway \ Westleigh School Catchment \ Viewings Advised \ **Call 01702 555888 or live chat at amosestates.com**

HADLEIGH \ £270,000

Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow \ Lounge 14'11 x 10'10 \ Conservatory 10'5 x 6'3 \ Kitchen 10'3 x 6'8 \ Bedroom One 11'11 To Built In Wardrobes x 9' \ Bedroom Two 8'10 x 7'4 \ Shower Room \ South Facing Rear Garden \ No Off Street Parking \ Re-Plumbed & Re-Wired Throughout \ Double Glazed Throughout \ Gas Central Heating \ Close To Town Centre, Hadleigh Castle & Country Park \ Ideal For Retirement/First Time Buyer \ Viewings Advised \ EPC - D \ **Call 01702 555888 or live chat at amosestates.com**

BENFLEET \ O.I.E.O £425,000

Spacious Four Bedroom Detached Family Home \ Lounge/Diner 21'4 x 15'1 \ Kitchen/Breakfast Room 16'3 Into Bay x 9'4 \ Ground Floor W.C \ Utility/Garage 18'3 x 8'6 \ Bedroom One 13'3 x 9'1 With En-Suite Shower Room \ Bedroom Two 12'10 x 7'10 \ Bedroom Three 9'9 x 6'11 \ Bedroom Four 11'3 x 6'3 \ Study/Dressing Room 6'9 x 5'7 \ Three Piece Bathroom Suite \ West Backing 70ft Approx Rear Garden \ Off Street Parking \ Conveniently Located For Local Shops & Amenities \ Kents Hill & King John School Catchment \ Easy Access Of A13 & A127 Trunk Roads \ Viewings Advised \ **Call 01702 555888 or live chat at amosestates.com**

HOCKLEY \ £290,000

Bright Well Decorated Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow \ Within Walking Distance To Hockley Shops And Train Station \ Lounge 17'4 X 11'9 \ Kitchen 9'2 X 7'8 \ Bedroom One 12' X 9'8 \ Bedroom Two 9'9 X 9'4 \ Shower Room 7'1 X 4'4 \ Close To Local Primary School \ Detached Garage \ Off Street Parking For Vehicles \ Attractive Rear Garden \ Viewing Advised \ **Call Hockley Office 01702 207720 or live chat at amosestates.com**

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THREE / FOUR BEDROOM CHALET , HIGHLANDS, LEIGH-ON-SEA £425,000

Spacious three/four bedroom chalet style family home situated on the sought after Highlands Estate. The property is available with immediate vacant possession. Keys available for accompanied viewings. Lounge with feature fireplace, dining room, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, 1st floor shower room, gas c/h, double glazing, LOVELY 70' REAR GARDEN, Long block paved driveway / parking area. Ref etl190107



PROBATE SALE - LEIGH-ON-SEA £299,995

Probate Sale semi-detached chalet style house. No Onward Chain. GARAGE, Two/ Three double bedrooms, two on the first floor, 3rd bedroom or second lounge on the ground floor, spacious lounge and conservatory, fitted kitchen, cloaks/w.c., shower room/w.c., gas c/h, double glazing, pretty rear garden, keys available for viewing. Ref etl5758



LEIGH-ON-SEA, GUIDE PRICE £335,000 - £345,000

This beautifully presented bungalow is situated in a quiet yet convenient location, Two double bedrooms, spacious lounge 20' x 13'7" open plan luxury kitchen and dining room, luxury shower room, Gas c/h, double glazing, good size garden with feature L' shape stone paved patio, off street parking for three cars. EARLY VIEWING IS STRONGLY ADVISED.



LUXURY FIVE BEDROOM HOME, CLOSE TO NATURE RESERVE £699,995

A unique opportunity to purchase this stunning luxuriously appointed five bedroom detached family home offering extremely versatile accommodation, perfect for dual family living with disability friendly facilities to the ground floor. This beautiful home is situated in the highly sought after location on the borders of Hadleigh and Leigh on Sea close to the Nature Reserve and Belfairs Woods. 5 Bedrooms, 2 en-suite's, elegant lounge, reception hall with galleried landing, 23' x 14'6" open Plan kitchen and dining room, ground floor spa room, cloaks/w.c., large garage & utility room, landscaped south facing garden. MUST BE VIEWED Ref etl5762



LEIGH-ON-SEA £425,000

Immaculate beautifully presented semi-detached Bungalow, sought after location within walking distance of local shops and under a mile to Leigh-on-Sea Station. Two double bedrooms, garage and parking for three cars, west facing garden, superb 23' x 13'6" Lounge/ diner, fitted kitchen, Ref etl5773



FIRST FLOOR FLAT WALKING DISTANCE OF LEIGH STATION £179,995

A bright and spacious purpose built first floor flat situated in this sought after location on the Highlands Estate within walking distance of local shops and Leigh Station. 19' X 10'6" LOUNGE, 10'4" X 7'9" RECENTLY FITTED KITCHEN, DOUBLE BEDROOM WITH WARDROBES, RECENTLY INSTALLED BATHROOM WITH SHOWER, GAS CENTRAL HEATING, ATTRACTIVE SOUTH FACING COMMUNAL GARDENS, EXTERNAL STORAGE SHED, NO ONWARD CHAIN Ref etl190105



LARGE FAMILY HOUSE WITH 4 CAR GARAGE/ WORKSHOP CLOSE TO HIGH SCHOOLS, WESTCLIFF £375,000

A very spacious and well presented semi detached house close to the High Schools at Westcliff & Southend. Large rear garden, superb FOUR CAR GARAGE/ WORKSHOP plus extra parking for two cars. Three bedrooms, cloaks/w.c., 20'6" x 11' lounge, 17'10" x 10' kitchen/ dining room, bathroom/w.c. KEYS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING - NO ONWARD CHAIN. Ref etl5763



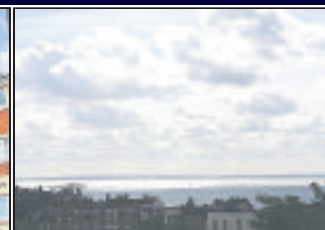
MARINE ESTATE, LEIGH £649,995

Large four bedroom character house, sought after Marine Estate location within Westleigh Schools Catchment area and walking distance of Leigh Station, Excellent size accommodation, early viewing advised Ref eah190081



RETIREMENT FLAT WITH SEA VIEWS £175,000

This luxury purpose built apartment for the over 60's is situated in a very convenient location close to local shops, the seafront and station. This superb flat benefits from its own good sized balcony enjoying exceptional Sea views. Open plan lounge and dining room 23'4" x 10'8", fitted kitchen with oven and hob, 19'6" x 9'6" bedroom, bathroom with shower, lovely communal; facilities and gardens. Ref etl5715



HIGHLANDS, LEIGH-ON-SEA £399,995

Three bedroom character house, within the Westleigh School Catchment area and walking distance of local shops and Leigh Station. Lovely 50' approx rear garden, 4TH BEDROOM / STUDY on the ground floor with en suite washroom/ w.c. 25'6" x 13'8" Lounge with feature fireplace and cast iron burner, 19'2" fitted kitchen/ breakfast room. Ref etl5769



TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM RETIREMENT FLAT £215,000 OIRO

Very large two double bedroom ground floor apartment for the over 60's situated close to local shops, beach, Westcliff Station etc. 23'3" x 10'8" lounge, fitted kitchen, 25' x 9'2" master bedroom, 23' x 9'2" 2nd bedroom, shower room/ w.c., well maintained communal gardens, residents parking, elegant residents lounge, laundry room, guest suite. Ref etl5691



6 BEDROOM HOUSE £499,995

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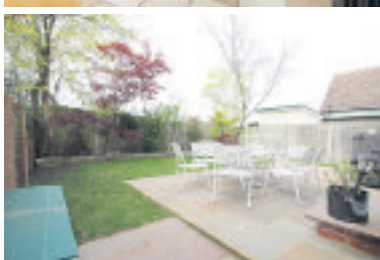
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**THUNDERSLEY
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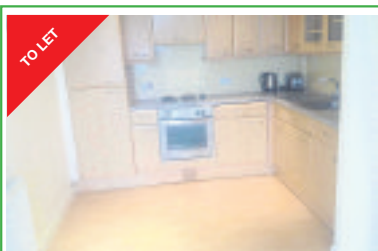
Situated within The King John School catchment and occupying a corner plot with views across open land and the surrounding area this detached chalet offers 3 bedrooms, 16ft lounge, conservatory, kitchen/diner, family bathroom and ground floor cloakroom. There is also a detached garage and no chain.

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Tyres get smart at Continental

by Chris Russon

TYRES are going high-tech to cope with the advances being made by car manufacturers in the latest generation of electric and autonomous vehicles.

As everyday transport becomes more sophisticated, tyre makers are responding by making the one common feature of every vehicle "smart".

German tyre brand Continental is at the forefront of development which could lead to tyres changing shape automatically to cope with differing conditions.

The so-called ContiAdapt concept adjusts a tyre's pressure and alters the rim width in an instant to optimise contact with the road while the ContiSense system uses sensors to measure tread depth, temperature and tyre damage, relaying information to the driver electronically.

The two systems enable continuous monitoring of the tyre's condition, as well as situation-matched adaptation of tyre performance characteristics to prevailing road conditions.

As the days of driverless vehicles come ever closer Continental is aware of the safety needs for accurate information about all aspects of a vehicle's operations to be instantly available.

It has also developed a tyre – the EcoContact 6 – which can be used by most types of current models including electric vehicles.

The EcoContact 6 is being produced in 95



CONCEPT: Continental is a leader in development which may lead to tyres changing shape automatically to cope with differing conditions

sizes and on rims ranging from 13 to 20 inches with most achieving the highest A standard for braking in the wet and low rolling resistance under the EU's tyre labelling scheme.

Significantly, it is available for tall and narrow rims which work best on electric vehicles where they help increase range.

The ContiAdapt system uses micro-compressors

integrated into the wheel to adjust the tyre pressure with a variable-width rim which can modify the size of the contact patch.

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A smaller contact patch combined with high tyre pressure make for low rolling resistance and

energy-efficient driving on smooth, dry roads while the combination of a larger contact patch with lower tyre pressure delivers ideal grip on slippery roads.

The system also permits very low tyre pressures of below one bar to be set, helping to ease the vehicle out of a parking space in deep snow, for example, or traverse a dangerous stretch of black ice.

ContiSense is based on the development of electrically conductive rubber compounds that enable electric signals to be sent from a sensor in the tyre to a receiver in the car.

Rubber-based sensors continuously monitor both tread depth and temperature.

If the measured values are above or below predefined limits, the system at once alerts the driver.

If anything penetrates the tread, a circuit in the tyre is closed, also triggering an immediate warning for the driver – faster than the systems used to date, which only warn the driver when the tyre pressure has already begun to fall.

The system can even detect information about road conditions and its temperature sensors can recognise snow, passing the data to the driver or transmitting it via Bluetooth to a smartphone.

Continental says the cost of the extra sensors would not be significant and it is hoping to introduce its ContiSense technology soon.

The EcoContact 6 range is already available and is priced from around £57 per tyre.

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BOND CONFIRMED AS 11 PLAYERS GO

Football

by Brian Jeeves

sport@yellowad.co.uk

SOUTHEND United have announced the permanent appointment of Kevin Bond as their manager on a two-year contract.

The 61-year-old initially took the reins at Roots Hall Stadium in early April on a short-term deal following the departure of Chris Powell and guided the Blues out of the relegation zone to safety by the narrowest of margins. Two wins and two draws from six games at the helm securing their place in the division on goal difference.

Speaking to www.southendunited.co.uk, the former Norwich City and Manchester City defender said: "I couldn't be more pleased.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the last few weeks of the season, although it was a pretty tense experience, and I can't wait to get started on planning for what we all hope is a bright future for Southend United.

"To a degree when you come in, in difficult circumstances, you're firefighting a little bit and you haven't really got enough time to make many changes, so you have to deal with what's in front of you and put one or two things in place which you think may make a difference."

Bond added: "Thankfully we got what we needed to get to stay in League One which is great and now we've got a longer period of



MEET THE NEW BOSS: Kevin Bond

Photo: David Davies/PA Wire

time in order to put things in place which will hopefully move the club forward.

"That work starts right now on the playing staff side and the planning for pre-season.

"This is a really busy part of the season and it's all about organising this period leading up to the first game of the season."

■ Experienced defenders Ben Coker and Michael Turner, are among a list of 11 players leaving

Southend United as Bond shapes his squad ahead of the 2019/20 Sky Bet League One campaign.

Former Colchester United man Coker had insisted he would not remain at Roots Hall beyond his current deal. He arrived at Southend in 2013 and has appeared 208 times during that period.

Along with Coker and one-time Sunderland player Turner, who recently made his 500th senior appearance in the game, Stephen Hendrie, Ted Smith, Amadou Ba,

Norman Wabo, Renei Batlokwa, Josh Bexon, Dan Humphreys, Joe Mackenzie and Sewa Marah have all departed.

Meanwhile, loanees Taylor Moore, Sam Hart and Harry Bunn have returned to their parent clubs.

Popular defender John White has been offered a new deal, while contract options have been extended by the Blues on Harry Phillips, Lewis Gard, Michael Klass, Sam Barratt, Tom Clifford and Rob Howard.

Non-league football

Orient's double dreams dashed

by Brian Jeeves and Rowland Lyons

sport@yellowad.co.uk

AFC Fylde 1-0 Leyton Orient

LEYTON Orient's dreams of a National League and Buildbase FA Trophy double were brought to a disappointing conclusion as a brilliantly executed second-half free-kick from Danny Rowe secured success for AFC Fylde at Wembley Stadium on Sunday.

Orient arrived at the home of football in a bullish mood having already secured promotion back to the Football League following a two-year absence.

While the O's were already celebrating their return to the EFL, opponents Fylde had missed out after suffering play-off heartbreak last week.

The Coasters were handed an early blow when skipper Neill Byrne was involved in a sickening clash of heads with Josh Coulson, resulting in his withdrawal.

Meanwhile, the north-west side created the game's first clear-cut opening. Former Colchester Utd man, Andy Bond, stabbed over after arriving unchallenged at the back post.

Orient, backed by more than 22,000 supporters, certainly had cause for concern. Coasters' leading marksman, Rowe, forced stopper Dean Brill into action while substitute Tom Brewitt fired into the side-netting.

Chances came at a premium during a keenly contested opening period. James Brophy provided the O's first meaningful attempt – Fylde keeper Jay Lynch saving low to his left at the foot of an upright while Josh Koroma fired over after exchanging passes with Macauley Bonne.

Koroma was wayward after skipping in from the right. But the pressure continued. Bond somehow missed from close range after Rowe had picked him out, then Reid found Brill's gloves, again when it appeared easier to score.

Brill saved at the feet of Reid as Fylde continued to ask the sterner questions after the break. Meanwhile, O's substitute Jordan Maguire-Drew could only look on as his 20-yard free-kick came back off the post.

There was a sense that the tide was turning Orient's way. Marvin Ekpiteta headed against the woodwork following Maguire-Drew's pinpoint corner. Then Craig Clay lifted over after Maguire-Drew had again fashioned an opening.

But shortly before the hour, Orient were undone in spectacular fashion. Rowe's dead-ball effort left Brill rooted to the spot as it sailed high into the east Londoners' net.

Joe Widdowson became the third Orient player to hit the woodwork, then Maguire-Drew's follow-up struck sub Matt Harrold, who was unable to get out of the way.

The busy Maguire-Drew hooked wide, then fizzed another effort over as Orient desperately search for a way back. Rowe, at the other end, sent an angled attempt just off target as the Coasters looked to put the game beyond doubt.

But it was not to be Orient's day. O's boss Justin Edinburgh said after the game: "The players are hurting, but they've got to take a lot of credit for the season they have had."

Leyton Orient's Sky Bet League Two fixtures will be published on Thursday, June 20. Look out for news throughout the summer.

AFC Fylde: Jay Lynch, Zaine Francis-Angol, Neill Byrne (capt) (Tom Brewitt 21), Jordan Tunncliffe, Andy Bond, Ryan Croasdale, Danny Rowe, Danny Philliskirk, Arlen Birch (Tom Crawford 90+3), Nick Haughton (Timi Odusina 74), Alex Reid Subs not used: Russell Griffiths, James Hardy.

Leyton Orient: Dean Brill, Joe Widdowson, Josh Coulson, Jobi McAnuff (capt) (Charlie Lee 78), Craig Clay, Macauley Bonne, Daniel Happe (Matt Harrold 68), James Brophy, Josh Koroma, Marvin Ekpiteta, James Turley (Jordan Maguire-Drew 46) Subs not used: Sam Sargeant, Sam Ling.

Referee: Andrew Madley

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Harmer and Porter the catalyst for Essex success

Cricket

Essex v Nottinghamshire
Specsavers County
Championship Division One
Brian Jeeves reporting from
the Cloudfm County Ground,
Chelmsford

Nottinghamshire 187 and 158
Essex 241 and 105/2 (34.4 overs)
Nottinghamshire won the toss
and elected to bat

Essex won by eight wickets

SIMON Harmer and Jamie Porter made a timely return to form as Essex comfortably recorded their first Specsavers County Championship Division One victory of the season as Nottinghamshire were swept aside at Chelmsford.

Harmer finished with match figures of 8/80 while Porter snared 7/116 as Essex won by eight wickets. The latter claimed 4/75 during first innings as Notts were removed for 187. Joe Clarke top-scored with 48 for Notts, while Ben Slater chipped in with 45 – both fell to the 25-year-old right-arm medium-fast bowler as Essex took the first day honours.



Simon Harmer (left) and Jamie Porter



Photos by Martin Dalton

Sir Alastair Cook and Nick Browne compiled an opening stand of 78 before the former England skipper edged Stuart Broad to skipper Steven Mullaney.

Browne went on to reach 67 – passing 5,000 first-class runs on the way. However, Notts pair Luke Fletcher and Matthew Carter led the way as the visitors staged a spirited fightback. Fletcher finishing with exemplary figures of 5/50, while Carter's 3/68 helped hamper Essex's hopes of building a substantial first-innings lead as the home side suffered a mini-batting crisis which saw six wickets tumble for 34 runs.

But a complete Essex collapse was handed a timely interruption courtesy of Harmer and Peter Siddie. Their ninth-wicket stand of 81 helped the hosts establish a 54-run advantage.

Notts now had it all to do. Ben Slater and Ben Duckett appeared to have handed Notts a platform with a stand of 70 before the latter

became Harmer's first victim. And the South African right-arm off-break bowler proved to be the scourge of the Notts order with second innings figures of 6/60 as Essex – set a modest target of 105 – honed in on maximum points for the first time this season.

And so it proved. Cook remained unbeaten on 40 from 109 balls, while Tom Westley fell one short of a half-century. Dan Lawrence guided Essex home with a single off Samit Patel, moving them up to second in the table.

They return to Specsavers County Championship Division One action on Monday, May 27/30 when Kent are the visitors to the Cloudfm County Ground, Chelmsford (11am).

Essex: Nick Browne, Alastair Cook, Tom Westley, Dan Lawrence, Rishi Patel, Ryan ten Doeschate (Capt), Robbie White (WK), Simon Harmer, Peter Siddie, Jamie Porter, Sam Cook

Nottinghamshire: Ben Slater, Ben Duckett, Chris Nash, Joe Clarke, Steven Mullaney (Capt), Samit Patel, Tom Moores (WK), Zak Chappell, Stuart Broad, Luke Fletcher, Matthew Carter

Umpires: Jeremy Lloyds and Neil Mallerder

Points: Essex 20 Nottinghamshire 3

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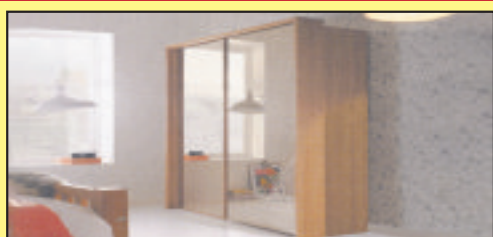
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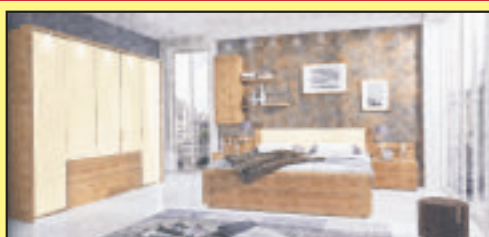
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